

passed on July 14th, 1842 (see Report of Bot. Soc. for that year, pp. 12 and 23), authorizing an arrangement to be made with the proprietors of this Journal, by which a much earlier publication of the papers is ensured to their author and the public, and also their ultimate distribution to the Members in a collected form is attained at a moderate expense to the Society.

Having heard it stated that some Members of the Society have obtained these Transactions under the idea that they contained previously unpublished papers, we have thought it right to call their attention to the above arrangement, and also, in justice to the authors of the papers, to add, that a large portion of the book has for many months been printed off, and that therefore it was not in their power to alter or cancel any part.

PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION.

The British Desmidiæ, with coloured Figures of the Species.

By J. Ralfs, M.R.C.S.

The author proposes to describe all the British *Desmidiæ*, and as correct figures will be essential to make the descriptions of such minute objects intelligible, he will spare neither care nor expense in rendering the plates, which will be executed under his own eye, as accurate as possible.

The engravings will be on copper, since experience has proved that the delicate markings of the *Desmidiæ* cannot be sufficiently displayed by lithography.

Upwards of 100 species will be introduced, many of them either altogether new or now first noticed as British.

The conjugated state of the *Desmidiæ* is interesting, sometimes from its resemblance to the same state in the *Conjugatæ*, sometimes from the similarity of the spores to fossil bodies found in flint, and considered by Ehrenberg and other naturalists as species of *Xanthidium*. On these accounts, and also because few instances have been hitherto recorded, it is intended to give not only full details of the process, but as far as practicable to show the different stages by figures. Examples will be taken from one or more species in each of the following genera: *Gleoprium*, *Didymoprium*, *Micrasterias*, *Euastrum*, *Cosmarium*, *Xanthidium*, *Staurastrum*, *Tetmemorus* and *Closterium*.

As their animal nature has been maintained by many able writers, this question will be examined and sufficient reasons produced for considering the *Desmidiæ* to belong to the vegetable kingdom. Their modes of growth and other facts which may illustrate their œconomy will receive particular attention.

That nothing may be wanting to the utility of this monograph, the Introduction will contain ample directions for finding and gathering these minute plants and the different methods of mounting them for the microscope.

Subscribers' names received by the author, Penzance. Price to Subscribers One Guinea.

Ann. & Mag. N. Hist. Vol. xvii.

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